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HOUSTON DAILY POST.

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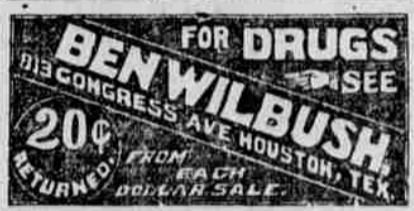
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5000 IS NOW ESTIMATED

Mayor Jones Issues a Statement to the People of the United States.

SETS FORTH IN FEW WORDS THE AWFUL CONDI-
TIONS EXISTING AT GALVESTON.

Many Bodies Are Still In the Ruins of the Brick Buildings; Others Have
Been Burned, and Still Others Buried at Sea---Twenty-Five
Men Were Shot By Soldiers Last Monday Night.

To the People of the United States.

Galveston, Texas, September 11.—It is my opinion, based on personal information, that 5000 people have lost their lives here. Approximately one-third of the residence portion of the city has been swept away. There are several thousand people who are homeless and destitute; how many, there is no way of finding out. Arrangements are now being made to have the women and children sent to Houston and other places, but the means of transportation are limited. Thousands are still to be cared for here. We appeal to you for immediate aid.

Galveston, Texas, September 11.—(Noon, via La Porte, by Long Distance 'Phone.)—Mayor Walter C. Jones estimates the number of dead at 5000, and he is conservative. Hundreds are yet to be taken from the ruins; these bodies are all badly decomposed now, and they are being buried in trenches where they are found. Others are being burned in the debris where this can be done safely. Others are in the mass of wreckage and are taken to sea on the barges. There is little attempt at identification, and it is safe to say that there will never be a complete list of the dead, or of the living, for there are many missing, some of whom are dead and some alive.

Chief of Police Ed Ketchum is in charge of the work of burying the dead. There are large bodies of men engaged in this work. They are tearing the ruins up and getting out the dead.

Some of those whose bodies are being taken out were probably only in-
jured when they were first struck down, but there was no way of getting relief
to them and they perished miserably.

Mayor Jones is in supreme control here now. The correspondent asked
him for a statement, which is given elsewhere.

The remnant of the force of regular soldiers who were stationed here—
and it is a small remnant—have joined the police in patrolling the city. Several
persons have already been shot, it is reported. A soldier of Captain Rafferty's
battery while patrolling the beach this morning ordered a man to desist from
looting; the fellow drew a weapon and was shot dead. The soldier was attacked

by four other men and he killed all of them. He had five cartridges in his rifle
and each of them found a billet.

Other men have also been shot but the details are not known, nor can the
exact number be ascertained, probably twenty-five. Some of these were shot for
failing to halt when ordered to do so; others for vandalism.

The ruins of the heavier brick buildings have not yet been searched for
the dead and there are a large number there. In the mass of rubbish which
marks the site of the Lucas Terrace boarding house forty to fifty people were
killed outright, and their bodies are still in the ruins.

The orphan home on the beach is totally demolished; ninety-two children
and eleven nuns were killed there; it is rumored that one sister escaped, but if
she did no trace can be found of her.

Of the regular soldiers few remain. Twenty-three were drowned at the
barracks at Camp Hawley and seven at Bolivar. One man drifted in the bay
until Monday morning and was taken out alive. There are many narrow escapes
told of, but this was probably the closest call.

The correspondent stood at the foot of Tremont street and counted nine
floating bodies without moving, and this is only an instance. It is not known
whether these were water front victims or whether they are the dead being cast
up by the repellant sea. A lot of rubbish was being loaded on barges and this
stuff had many bodies in it.
C. ARTHUR WILLIAMS.

A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CALAMITY AND ITS RESULTS.

General McKibbin, commander of the department of Texas, came over from San Antonio and passed through Houston yesterday morning on his way to Galveston, accompanied by his aide, Lieutenant Perry. He was joined by Adjutant General Sourry, who had ordered out the Houston troops, as the situation in Galveston had become critical and it was necessary that while the civil authorities attended to one part of the business a strong military arm was needed to hold in check the lawless element.

General McKibbin was requested to take control of the Galveston, Houston and Henderson road and prevent any persons going down to Galveston—pass or no pass—but declined to do so, and then the Galveston, Houston and Henderson refused to run any more trains to Galveston.

On one of the relief trains a number of volunteers went down, but when the train reached its destination they refused to assist in either burying the dead, caring for the injured, handling provisions or moving skulls. This is what led the Galveston, Houston and Henderson management to request the government to take charge of the road and allow no persons to go down to Galveston.

General Manager Hill of the Galveston, Houston and Northern says it would be a crime to allow outsiders to go down to Galveston just now. The people there are in distress. They need, more than anything else, ice, then pure water, then food and raiment and disinfectants would be acceptable, and would undoubtedly save a good deal of sickness.

Why were troops necessary in Galveston? Because human vultures, like the buzzards and the carrion crows, were holding an orgie over the dead. The majority of these human hyenas were negroes, but there were also whites who took part in the desecration of the dead. Some of them were home vultures and some had been allowed to go over from the mainland under the guise of "relief" work. They did "relief" work by relieving the dead of the jewelry or valuables on their persons and by looting premises.

It seems horrible to contemplate; to think that human beings can be so debased as to rob the dead, and not only that, but that they should mutilate bodies in order to secure their ghoulish booty. A party of negroes were returning from a looting expedition. They had stripped corpses of all valuables, and the pockets of some of the looters were fairly bulging out with fingers of the dead which had been cut off because they were so swollen the rings could not be removed.

Incensed at this desecration and mutilation of the dead, the looters were promptly shot down, and it was de-

mined that all found in the act of robbing the dead shall be summarily shot.

During the robbing of the dead, not only were fingers cut off, but ears were stripped from the head in order to secure jewels of value. The few government troops who survived have been assisting in patrolling the city. Private citizens have also endeavored to prevent the robbing of the dead and on several occasions have killed the offenders. It is said that at one time eight were killed and at another time four. Singly and in twos and threes the vultures were thus shot down until the total of those thus executed amounts to fully fifty.

When the troops got the situation under control the robbing of the dead will be stopped and some more systematic method of searching for, handling and identifying the dead will be adopted than now prevails.

In twos, in threes, and in groups, sometimes of a score, men can be seen in Houston, discussing the one topic—the Galveston disaster. Except such business as must be attended to nothing is being done. The city is shocked and stunned. It is in deep sympathy with the stricken sister town and can think of naught else, but the awful calamity. Each new piece of information is eagerly looked for. Newspaper men are besieged with the same question which is put to them every few moments: "What's the latest from Galveston?"

News comes in from neighboring towns and communities which have been almost completely obliterated. Under ordinary circumstances these disasters would have caused a shudder to come over the people and relief parties would have been sent to aid these afflicted neighbors who have lost their all and are homeless and hungry. But the Galveston disaster is so overwhelming the small communities are overlooked. In fact, the loss by the